Nishant, anti-tank missile system Nag and integrated electronic warfare (EW) system for the Army. LCA and EW programme have further been affected by the sanctions imposed by the western countries after May 1998 nuclear tests.

The indigenous technologies are being developed by pooling the national resources of expertise and infrastructure. National efforts have been launched to develop the technologies affected by sanctions. Some components and sub-systems affected by sanctions are being obtained through alternate sources. Additional monitoring has been introduced to expedite these projects.

Shortcomings in Sukhoi-30 fighters planes

3374. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
MISS FRIDA TOPNO:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sukhoi-30 fighters received from Russia possess only limited air defence capabilities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to rectify the shortcomings and bring them to the standards expected to;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have placed a contract for the supply often more Sukhoi fighters inspite of the shortcomings; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No. Sir. The aircraft is optimised for air defence role.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Additional 10 SU-30 K aircraft have been procured last year for the IAF and are already in operation.

Reorganisation of Security System

3375. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the former Chiefs of Defence services have recommended reorganisation of the security system in view of Kargil intrusion;

(b) if so, whether the views expressed by former Chiefs of Defence services have been examined;

(c) the details of action taken thereon;

(d) whether in view of Kargil intrusion and Subrahmanyam Committee Report, Government have taken any safety and security measures; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The former Chiefs to Staff have recommended reorganisation of the national security system. Similarly, the Kargil Review Committee has also recommended review of the National security system. In view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review Committee and other relevant aspects, the Government has decided that the national security system in its entirety be thoroughly reviewed by a Group of Ministers headed by the Home Minister with Raksha Mantri, External Affairs Minister and Finance Minister as its members.

(d) and (e) The specific recommendations made by Kargil Review Committee (Subrahmanyam Committee) for strengthening the surveillance system by acquisition of (a) high altitude UA Vs, (b) communication interception equipment, (c) satellite imagery capability of world standards, and (d) development of skills in encryption/decryption have been accepted by the Government in principle. Further, the Armed Forces have been directed to step up their vigil all along the LoC and international border. Measures taken to counter Kargil like situation are also being reviewed regularly by the Government.

Experts Team to Collect Secret Information

†3376. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to constitute a team of experts with a view to coordinate the task of collecting secret information for the armed forces;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the said team is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government has in view of the importance and sensitivity of the subject and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the Kargil Review

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.